

PATENT

REMARKS

Introduction:

Claims 1-51 are pending in the present application.

A preliminary amendment was filed on September 12, 2003, and an IDS was also filed on April 28, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the receipt of both the preliminary amendment and the IDS in the next office communication.

Furthermore, accompanying this response is a supplemental IDS to the IDS filed on April 28, 2005. The supplemental IDS includes a copy of the international search report in a related PCT application, International Application No. PCT/US2004/004788. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the receipt of the supplemental IDS in the next office communication.

In the Office Action mailed March 22, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-51, under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over certain claims of the co-pending Application No. 10/646,955 (the "co-pending application").

Double Patenting Rejection:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-51, under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over certain claims of the co-pending Application No. 10/646,955. In particular, claims 1-8, 9-21, 22-24, 25-32, 33-45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 of the present application were rejected over claims 1, 18, 46, 51, 58, 71, 74, 76, 81, 81, and 84, respectively of the co-pending application.

Enclosed is a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) which overcomes the provisional double patenting rejection.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2005

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